

Plan Regular Patrols

Hicks said, "We're gonna patrol. And, like policemen who are running you down and say, 'You speedin', then we pull up to them and say, 'What's the matter,' and the policeman say, 'He's speedin'!"

"And we say, 'We didn't see him speed,' and when the policemen see we armed just like they is—a white man's just like anybody else—they gonna let you go when they see you gonna attack them back."

The total strength of the Deacons is kept secret by the organization, but outside estimates have ranged from 5,000 to 15,000.

Hicks has estimated the number of Deacons here at

175 to 200. He said about 75% of them are veterans of the armed services and several are experts in the use of military weapons.

Hogalusa Police Chief Klaxon Knight says the Deacons increase the danger of racial explosion.

"My men are watching them closely," he said. "If one of them makes the wrong move he's gonna get his head blown off."

Sims prepared Saturday to leave for Los Angeles where he will be interviewed on a television program.

"I'd like to start a chapter of the Deacons in Los Angeles," he said. "Man, there's police brutality and people there just like everywhere with that white supremacy else." Hicks said, "but no-body's shooting at anybody."

But Hicks said he does not see any need for a Los Angeles chapter.

Deacons Chief Defends Sims on Visit to L.A.

Use of Arms Necessary Because of Lack
Justice for Negro in South, He Says

BY PAUL WEEKS

Times Staff Writer

sat immaculate in a business suit, white and plain tie, sipping coffee in a fashionable bar on the Sunset. It was mid-morning.

41, he is balding. His face is set off with a mustache. He lit one sized cigaret after another.

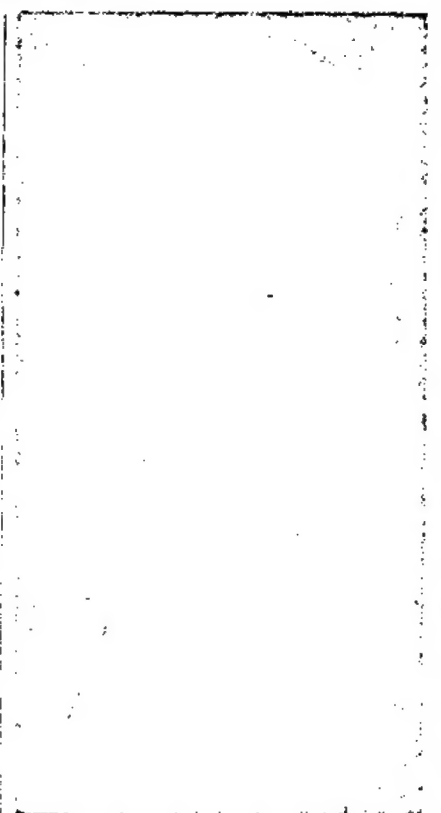
caused the bartender to "lyle" because that's the few others present him. And the bartender called him "Mr. Sims" as bartender used "Mister" the others.

Sims is Charles Sims, 35, a man, and he have been any other man visit Los Angeles.

From Bogalusa he is Charles Sims, 35, a man, and he have been any other man visit Los Angeles. Sims is the president of the Bogalusa chapter of the Deacons for Peace and Justice, which has amassed many guns and grenades for any eventual southern racial confrontation.

his reserve with arms was broken, Sims easily and admitted it the first time he'd had a in three months. "Sometimes," he said, "I slept with my clothes weeks at a time — and I didn't even take them off."

committal on the bit the heavy artillery, admitted the Deacons arms in violation of the concealed weapons law.



Charles Sims
Times photo
Choice Taken

"I would rather be caught in Bogalusa," he said, "with concealed weapons than without them."

The Deacons' arms, he insisted, are defensive—not retaliatory — for he believes southern law enforcement and justice for the Negro are nonexistent.

But federal and state authorities are worried. The Deacons, they say, are playing with matches in a powder magazine. Regardless of his words, how can Sims or his associate leaders ward off explosion when mob passion flares?

"I know every man in the Deacons in Bogalusa. It's a small (pop. 5,000) town. Neither the Communists nor

the FBI could get in. And I'm no Communist. The members respect the leadership. That's good enough."

View Differs

To the law, Sims' assurance of organizational discipline is a fraying thread. He sees it as a steel chain one minute—but then:

"One time the police went into a picket line of our people and they pulled up young girls' dresses with nightsticks and they put lighted cigarets on their straw 'freedom' hats. I didn't know what was going to happen."

The Deacons' leadership promptly met at Sims' house.

"I took out my gun and put it on the table. I told everybody, 'Put them down there.' They put their guns down. We went down to that picket line and we joined it. There was no more trouble."

While he side-stepped the direct question as to whether the Deacons have machine guns and grenades, he said, regarding how they could possibly be conceived to be "defensive."

"I saw all the blood and combat I ever want to see in the second World War. I saw innocent people killed, too. I

don't want to see no more combat if I can get around it. But if ever there is a line coming at us with little or big weapons, I want to be ready."

But of more immediacy, he said civil rights workers—white or black—couldn't enter Bogalusa without the Deacons' armed cover. "We've protected more white men in Bogalusa than we ever protected colored."

Reviews Life

"But let's go back. I took what I wanted a long time. My folks could of sent me to any school I wanted. I didn't want that."

"I got in the infantry. I moved around. I saw things I never thought about in Bogalusa. I went to the library

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.
Part 1, page 25

Date: 6/14/65

Edition:

Author:

Editor: NICK B. WILLIAMS

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LA

☐ Being Investigated

and I studied. I went to NCO school and came out a sergeant.

"One day in the Army I see a corporal who was a policeman in Bogalusa. He sees me in integrated places and all that. He was a die-hard. He got out of the service first. He sees me back in Bogalusa—me still in uniform.

"First thing he says, 'Remember, you're not in the Army now.' I made up my mind then not to be pushed around."

Sims has had a gun from that day to this.

On Dec. 6, 1959, a woman shot him and he almost died.

"I told my mother they got this woman in jail who shot

me. I told her I was going to hit that woman. The only defense she had against me was a weapon. I said, 'If I die, don't you prosecute.'

"And when I got well, the district attorney says, 'You prosecute.' And I says, 'You know I can't read or write. Who going to sign?' (I write better left-handed than he write).

"I was confined to bed for 40 days and look up to the top of the house. You live your life over like that. I never took time out before to sit down and listen to my own thoughts."

Reconciliation Told

The woman who shot him "is my girl right now, and I don't plan to swap her for nobody."

Long after the shooting, the Saturday night brawler "saw the police on TV dragging a woman like she was a piece of wood," and shortly he was in the Bogalusa Civic and Voters League and then the Deacons.

"The mayor invite CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) in for a test of integration in public places. They integrate for the test—they reject us after the test is over."

At Sims' elbow, fascinated, sat author-commentator Louis Lomax, who "invited

Sims here to be dissected on Lomax' Sunday night TV show.

Anticipates Interview

"He say on the phone he going to take me apart with questions," Sims laughed. "I don't know then if he white or black—but the way he say it, I trust him—and I don't answer questions I don't want to."

One last question: Did Sims want to organize a Deacons chapter in Los Angeles?

He paused. He smiled.

"I hadn't thought about it." He had thought coming here might raise money for the Deacons and he hadn't given much thought to whether his appearance here might arouse more hatred and terror than money.

"You might have need for them here. I know Bogalusa. I don't know Los Angeles."

(A day earlier, Sims told a Times reporter in Bogalusa he would like to start a chapter in Los Angeles, adding, "Man, there's police brutality and people with that white supremacy stuff everywhere.")

CONFIDENTIAL
FBI

Date: 6/21/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-1184)(RUC)
RE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
aka. "The Deacons";
CHARLES SIMS, Spokesman
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: New Orleans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau, 6/15/65.

b1
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED] that [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] that [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED]

- ③ - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (RM)(AM)
- 1 - Los Angeles

MIB/jlm CLASS. & EXT. BY SP18d/11 7-16-80
(6) REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-21-85

REC-70

157-2466

10 JUN 26 1965

PROTECT COPIES
8/2/11
C. Wick

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Approved: 274

Sent _____ M Per _____

FBI

Date: 6/24/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

REC-72

Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-New) (P)

SUBJECT: DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
HOMER, LOUISIANA, CHAPTER
RM

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are original and eight copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth information concerning captioned organization. Copies of this memorandum are being disseminated to ICG and Secret Service.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 9)
2 - New Orleans (157-New)

WPJQ/cm
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP18pl/jk

REC-72

15 JUL 1 1965

EX-101

AGENCY: ASST. GEN. COUNSEL
DATE FORW: 6/29/65
HOW FORW: RLS
BY: SFP: CL

1 cc 828 AB
all - ind
1-30-65

1cc & cc LHM
SPS RB

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 24, 1965

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
HOMER, LOUISIANA CHAPTER

On June 10, 1965, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] indicated that a Chapter of the Deacons for Defense and Justice had been formed in Homer, Louisiana. [REDACTED] indicated that the organization, exclusively composed of local Negro males, had originally been formed by Negroes in Bogalusa and Jonesboro, Louisiana, as a self-protection group. [REDACTED] continued to explain that the organization was active in areas where Civil Rights activity had either actually or was presumed to potentially precipitate violence against Negroes by local white segregationists.

[REDACTED] said that the specific purpose of the group was to arm themselves and to "meet force with force" in such instances as local white men employed force or "terror tactics" against Negroes. [REDACTED] was emphatic in stressing that the organization intended no aggressive or violent action against any individual or group, and that no member of the organization would employ any type of force unless such action was initiated against him first.

[REDACTED] furnished a list of Negro male individuals who are currently members of the Homer, Louisiana Chapter of the organization and the positions they occupy, as follows:

GEORGE BODD	Homer, Louisiana	President
FRED LEWIS	Belcher Stop, Lisbon, Louisiana	Vice President
OTIS CHATMAN	Homer, Louisiana	Secretary
JOE LESTER GREEN	Homer, Louisiana	Financial Secretary
ROY SMITH	Homer, Louisiana	Treasurer
[REDACTED]	Homer, Louisiana	Member
[REDACTED]	Homer, Louisiana	Member
[REDACTED]	Homer, Louisiana	Member
[REDACTED]	Homer, Louisiana	Member
[REDACTED]	Homer, Louisiana	Member
[REDACTED]	Homer, Louisiana	Member
[REDACTED]	Homer, Louisiana	Member

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gsh/jk

ENCLOSURE

1
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11 This document contains neither recommendations nor
12 conclusions of the F.B.I. It is the property of the F.B.I and
13 is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be
14 distributed outside your agency.
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CONGRESSIONAL MAIL

FORWARD IN CELLOPHANE ENVELOPE

DO NOT MARK OR DEFACE IT IN ANY WAY !

Congress of the U

House of Reps

Washington, D.C.

June 30th, 196⁵

Congressional Liaison
Office
Federal Bur. of Investi-
gation

Sir:

The attached communication
is sent for your consideration.
Please investigate the statements
contained therein and forward me
the necessary information for re-
ply, returning the enclosed corre-
spondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

M. C.

James H. Morrison
2354 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C.

ENCLOSURE

ack

38-JUL-2-1965

RECORDED

REC-28/57-2466-19

1 JUL 2 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

TRUE COPY

La.
June 23, 1965

Urgent

Rep. Jimmy Morrison
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir.

Urgently request you ask Justice Dept. to look into Matter of "Deacons For Defense" in Bogalusa, one Charles Sims, reported to be president. They are supposed to have Machine guns, and hand grenades. I live seven miles from that arnsnal, in the hands of a bunch of idiotic Negros, and I want that investigated!

Would appreciate hearing from you immediately that you are looking into this.

Sincerely yours

157-2466-11
17-6-65

REC-28

157-2466-17

July 6, 1965

Honorable James H. Morrison
House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gsk/jk

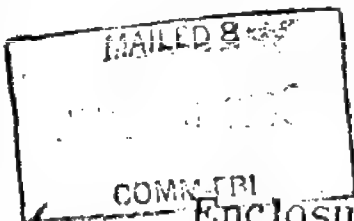
My dear Congressman:

I received your communication of June 30th and the enclosed letter from [REDACTED] b7C

While I would like to be of assistance to your constituent, information contained in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. She may be assured, however, that this Bureau is ever aware of its responsibilities, and whenever a violation of a law within our jurisdiction occurs, we will make every effort to continue to discharge our obligations with the highest degree of thoroughness and dispatch.

I am returning [REDACTED]'s letter with this communication.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover



Enclosure

1 - New Orleans - Enclosures (2) b7C

NOTE: Our relations with Congressman Morrison have been generally cordial. A prior communication from [REDACTED] to this Bureau on 5/4/65 was not acknowledged because of critical remarks regarding the FBI's work in the civil rights field. The New Orleans Office is conducting a current investigation regarding Deacons for Defense and Justice to determine its activities and leadership. It is a Negro group formed in Louisiana with one Ernest Thomas as apparently its spokesman. He has advised Negroes that they should arm themselves and form roving patrols which will assist Negroes when Negroes are being arrested.

66-2466-1365

(continued on next page)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
JUL 6 3 48 PM '65

Honorable James H. Morrison

Fees and dues of the group are used to purchase ammunition, radio equipment and literature. Thomas claims they have 50 chapters in four Southern states. The organization was formed as a protective measure for Negroes who are not suitably protected by local law enforcement agencies. A Charles L. Sims identified himself as head of this group.

7/19/65

Airtel

1 - Mr. J. L. Martin

To: SACs, New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc.)
Birmingham (157-1446) (Enc.)
Charlotte (157-882) (Enc.)
Jackson (157-3465) (Enc.)
Jacksonville (157-new) (Enc.)
Mobile (157-1017) (Enc.)
Savannah (157-731) (Enc.)

From: Director, FBI (157-2400)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: NEW ORLEANS

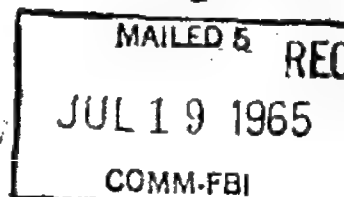
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-8 BY SP1 gch/fk

ReBureau airtel to New Orleans dated 2/26/65 NOairtel to
Bureau 3 26 65 and NCteletype 7/14/65.

Enclosed for each office is one copy of a "Wall Street
Journal" article dated 7/13/65, entitled "More Black Negroes
Buy Arms to Retaliate Against White Attacks."

For the information of Offices receiving this communica-
tion, the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc., is a Negro organ-
ization incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana with
headquarters at Jonesboro Louisiana. The Deacons has as one of
its purposes, the arming of Negroes for protection against Klan
violence and recently has been active in racial demonstrations
in Bogalusa, Louisiana. In addition to the enclosed article,
it has received wide publicity. It has been reported in news
articles, such as the enclosed, that the Deacons has 50 to 55
chapters in several states; it allegedly has 5,000 to 15,000
members and has acquired a large number of weapons. Bureau in-
vestigation to date has not substantiated apparent exaggerated
claims. At early organizational meetings in Bogalusa Louisiana,
in February, 1965, Deacon leaders boasted that they had sources
who could furnish large amounts of weapons and ammunition including
automatic weapons. It is necessary therefore, that we obtain
complete facts as to the organization's actual strength.

JLM:pjn
(16)



SEE NOTE 19 JUL 20 1965

MAIL ROOM [V] TELETYPE UNIT []

Airtel to SAC, New Orleans
RE: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
157-2466

ReNOairtel of 3/26/65, sets forth leads to interview [redacted] of the Deacons in an effort to obtain details concerning membership, arms and activities. New Orleans immediately conduct interviews of Deacons' [redacted] with the purposes of obtaining complete information regarding the organization and discouraging illegal arming and illegal acts. b7D

It is noted that the recipient offices, except New Orleans, advised by teletypes 7/14-15/65, that the organization did not exist in their territories. Nevertheless, all offices receiving this communication will immediately conduct appropriate investigation to determine if there are any Deacons' Chapters in their respective Divisions. Promptly advise the Bureau of the existence of any Deacons' Chapters or attempts to organize. Determine leadership, strength of membership, activities, and arms acquired. Be especially alert for any large supply of arms and their source. Disseminate all pertinent information to Army Intelligence and Secret Service, locally. Promptly submit letterhead memoranda concerning developments.

New Orleans, as Office of origin, is instructed to submit an investigative report within thirty days which should include results of all investigation to date.

NOTE:

Memorandum, B ungardner to Sullivan, dated 7/14/65, answered an inquiry of the Director as to the accuracy of the "Wall Street Journal's" article, 7/12/65. This organization has been under continuous investigation since January, 1965, and regular dissemination has been made to the Intelligence Community, Secret Service, the Department and the Community Relations Service. We are continuing to follow closely this investigation and believe that further intensified investigation being directed by this airtel is merited.

FBI

Date: 7/12/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL
(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-84 BY SP18/ff/mk

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)
SUBJECT: ① DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

For information of the Bureau,
[redacted] telephonically advised [redacted]

[redacted] advised he had information from members of the Deacons for Defense and Justice that they had 50 or 55 chapters either already in operation or being put in operation in Louisiana, and they were extending this into Alabama and Mississippi.

[redacted] stated he had talked to members of this organization in Jonesboro, La., and this is where he got his information, but in talking to other people, they advised this organization was not as big as the members claimed it to be, and he was going to Bogalusa, La., to try to verify this.

He inquired as to whether the New Orleans Office could give him any information and he was advised "no comment".

C. Wick
3 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Birmingham (Info) (RM)
1 - Jackson (Info) (RM)
1 - Mobile (Info) (RM)
2 - New Orleans

JTS:sam
(8)

REC-57

JUL 14 1965

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

SUBV. CONTROL
Int. Section

Memorandum

TO : W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 7-15-65

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Belmont

1 - Mohr

1 - DeLoach

1 - Rosen

1 - Sullivan

1 - Bland 1 - Baumgardner

1 - Phillips

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTERS

The Director and Mr. Tolson have inquired as to the accuracy of an article in the 7-12-65 issue of "The Wall Street Journal" headed "More Dixie Negroes Buy Arms to Retaliate Against White Attacks." The article (attached) primarily concerns the Deacons of Defense and Justice which is an all-Negro secret organization centered in Louisiana with headquarters at Jonesboro..

Background of Organization

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons dated 3-5-65 in the State of Louisiana gave the purposes of the organization as including: to educate citizens, especially minority groups, in the Constitution and laws of the United States; to teach the obligations of citizenship; and to teach the defense of property and personal rights by "any and all honorable and legal means." At early organizational meetings, leaders discussed purposes as being the acquisition of weapons by Negroes in an effort to defend themselves against Klan violence and to provide protection not provided by local authorities. The Deacons Vice-President and organizer, Earnest Thomas, also told Negroes that they should arm and form roving patrols to assist any Negroes being arrested. The Deacons have worked closely with James Farmer and his organization, the Congress of Racial Equality, and with the Bogalusa Voters League, a local civil rights organization. The Deacons have been active in the recent demonstrations in Bogalusa. The Deacons have been the subject of a continuing Bureau investigation since January, 1965, and we have been regularly disseminating information concerning this organization to the Department, military intelligence, Secret Service and the Community Relations Service.

Analysis of Article

The following is based upon information in Bureau files including a current check with the field. The article is generally accurate in respect to the purposes of the organization, the

Enc.

SFP:pdb

(9)

CONTINUED - OVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-11-80 BY SP184/fv

3 JUL 23 1965

56 JUL 27 1965

Handwritten notes and signatures in the top right corner, including a large 'R' and various initials.

Handwritten notes and signatures in the middle right margin, including '5-18-65' and other illegible marks.

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan

Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

factors which motivated its start, its close relationship with other groups such as the Congress of Racial Equality and the possession of firearms and walkie-talkie radio equipment by its members. There are, however, a number of inaccuracies and exaggerations in the article relating to the following: The article reports claims by some Deacons leaders of having over 50 chapters including some in neighboring states. Bureau investigation reveals chapters exist only in Jonesboro, Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana; none in neighboring states. Article reports membership estimates as between 5,000 and 15,000. Bureau investigation indicates this highly exaggerated and membership probably no more than a few hundred.

Article reports Deacons possess firearms and this generally borne out by our investigation including actual observations by Bureau Agents. In this connection, it should be noted that most rural southerners possess firearms and that the carrying of rifles and pistols in rural areas is commonplace by both whites and Negroes. Such firearms and ammunition are readily available from local hardware, sporting goods stores, mail order houses and gun dealers. The carrying of firearms in Louisiana is permissible provided the weapons are not concealed on the person. A significant comment was made by a Deacons member, [REDACTED], who said that Deacons members do not actually engage in armed patrols but that the story was circulated concerning such patrols in order to discourage Klansmen from causing trouble in Negro sections. Article reports that Bureau Agents are monitoring walkie-talkie transmissions of the Deacons. Although our New Orleans Office has equipment in Bogalusa capable of monitoring the Deacons walkie-talkies, no monitoring has been done of the Deacons.

Article reports a Deacons chapter in Varnado, seven miles north of Bogalusa, to protect the widow of Oneal Moore, a Negro Deputy Sheriff slain June, 1965. Our investigation in the Varnado area including interviews with the Moore widow has not established that any protection is being undertaken by the Deacons and there is no known chapter located there.

OBSERVATIONS:

Inasmuch as the Deacons were apparently organized for defensive purposes as a retaliation to Klan acts against Negroes,

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan

Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

it is not surprising that Deacons leaders would exaggerate its strength for the purpose of discouraging violence against Negroes and to help encourage increased membership. A striking illustration of the exaggeration as to the number of chapters is the fact that an article by Roy Reed appeared in the 6/6/65 issue of "The New York Times" which quoted Deacons leader Thomas as saying they had 50-55 chapters in various stages of organization. On 7/12/65

[REDACTED] had reports of 50-55 chapters and contradictory information that the Deacons is not as big as claimed. He was given a "no comment" reply to his inquiry for information concerning the Deacons. This surely illustrates the uncertainty as to the actual facts notwithstanding newspaper accounts.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is for your information. We will continue to follow closely this investigation and keep you advised of pertinent developments.

FBI

Date: 7/15/65
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-3465)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gpl/jk 7-16-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 7-15-88

ReJNtel to Bureau, 7/14/65.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of
LHM. Two copies LHM furnished New Orleans Division.

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC. SER. 1 (C)
INFO: ISD, CRD, R-01

[REDACTED]

In the event any additional pertinent information
is received concerning the Deacons for Defense and Justice,
the Bureau and New Orleans will be immediately advised.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 8)
2 - New Orleans (Encls. 2)
2 - Jackson
HEH:cj
(7)

1cc & cc LHM
808 RB

REC-23

157-2466-24

17 JUL 17 1965

EC-100

Sent _____ M Per _____

56 JUL 27 1965
Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Jackson, Mississippi
July 15, 1965

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

Confidential sources who have furnished reliable information in the past and who are familiar with the activities of civil rights organizations in Jackson, Mississippi, have advised that they know of no organizations of the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" in the State of Mississippi.

On July 14, 1965, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he had recently made a specific check concerning the possibilities of the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" operating in Mississippi, and found no evidence that they were. He stated that he made a special effort to determine if there might be any such organization in the Mississippi counties neighboring Bogalusa, Louisiana, but found no evidence that this organization was operating in any of these counties.

On July 14, 1965, Charles Evers, Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Jackson, Mississippi, advised in connection with a comment distributed to him in an article in "The Wall Street Journal" of July 12, 1965, that he had referred to the Negroes in Mississippi who were protecting themselves from violence and it was these Negroes that he stated he "was glad were around". He said he knew of no groups of the "Deacons for Defense and Justice" in existence in Mississippi.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-16-80 BY SP-1 JPL/11

100-24-24
- ENCLOSURE -

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 1 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI SAVANNAH

6:52 PMEST URGENT 7/14/65 CJD

TO DIRECTOR, I

FROM SAVANNAH /157-731/

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE- RACIAL MATTERS.

RE: CE TEL CALL THIS DATE, PERTAINING TO ARTICLE, WALL
ST. JOURNAL, JULY TWELVE LAST.

SAVANNAH KNOWS OF NO ACTIVITY CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION IN
DIVISION. EFFORTS BEING MADE TO DETERMINE IF IN EXISTENCE THIS
DIVISION. AM COPY CE FOR INFO.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

WA...JPM

FBI WASH DC

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP8 JFR 157-2466-25

NO JUL 27 1965

66 AUG 2 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 15 1965

TELETYPE

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FBI WASH DC

FBI NEW ORLS

4-45AM CST URGENT 7-15-65 CWB

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., AKA. DEACONS FOR
DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RACIAL MATTERS.

RE BU TEL-CALL JULY FOURTEEN SIXTYFIVE.

I. GENERAL SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE (DDJ)

A. NUMERICAL STRENGTH

ON JANUARY FIVE SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT AN ORGANIZATION KNOWN
AS THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE HAD
BEEN ORGANIZED AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.

[REDACTED] OF THE DDJ, JONESBORO, LA. ADVISED ON JANUARY FIVE SIXTYFIVE THAT
THERE WERE BETWEEN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY AND THREE HUNDRED
MEMBERS OF THE DDJ'S IN JACKSON PARISH, LOUISIANA. ON
MARCH ONE SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] STATED ON THE NIGHT OF FEBRUARY TWENTYEIGHT SIXTYFIVE

END PAGE ONE

AUG 9 1965

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-82 BY SP1 [REDACTED]

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

REC-113

3 JUL 27 1965

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27 PAGE TWO

28
29 A MEETING OF THE DDJ'S HAD TAKEN PLACE IN BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA.

30 [REDACTED] STATED THAT FOURTEEN NEGROES ATTENDED THIS MEETING.

31
32 ON MARCH TEN SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED] AND

33 [REDACTED], BOGALUSA, LA., ADVISED THAT THERE ARE FOURTEEN
34
35 MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN THE BOGALUSA BRANCH OF THE
36
37 DDJ. b7C
b7D

38
39
40 ON JANUARY TEN SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]
41
42 HOMER, LOUISIANA CHAPTER OF THE DDJ ADVISED THAT THERE
43
44 WERE TWELVE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ INCLUDING HIMSELF IN
45
46 HOMER, LOUISIANA.

47
48 B. MEMBERSHIP

49
50 ON JUNE THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE, CHARLES SIMS
51
52 APPEARED ON THE LOUIS LOMAX TELEVISION SHOW, CHANNEL
53

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55 END PAGE TWO
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22 PAGE THREE

23
24 ELEVEN, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, STATED THERE ARE
25
26 FROM FIFTY TO SIXTY CHAPTERS OF THE DDJ'S IN THREE
27
28 OR FOUR STATES.

29
30 AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES
31
32 TIMES ON JUNE THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE WITH A DATELINE
33
34 OF BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA, STATED IN PART THAT EARNEST
35
36 THOMAS OF JONESBORO, LOUISIANA, AN OFFICIAL AND
37
38 FULL-TIME ORGANIZER OF THE DEACONS, HAD TOLD
39
40 NEWSMEN THAT THERE ARE FIFTY TO FIFTYFIVE CHAPTERS
41
42 IN LOUISIANA, MISSISSIPPI AND ALABAMA. FUND RAISING
43
44 UNITS ARE BEING ESTABLISHED IN SAN FRANCISCO, NEW
45
46 YORK AND OTHER LARGE CITIES.

47
48 IN THE CONTINUATION OF THIS ARTICLE,
49
50 ROBERT HICKS OF BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA ESTIMATED THE
51
52 NUMBER OF DEACONS IN THE BOGALUSA, LA. AREA AT BETWEEN ONE HUNDRED
53
54 END PAGE THREE
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20 ~~AGE~~ FOUR

21
22 SEVENTYFIVE AND TWO HUNDRED MEMBERS.

23
24 THE ARTICLE FURTHER STATED THAT AT THE SAME TIME
25
26 OTHER LOUISIANA UNITS WERE BEING ESTABLISHED IN
27
28 BATON ROUGE, NEW IBERIA AND PLAQUEMINE. STATED
29
30 TOTAL STRENGTH OF THE DEACONS IS KEPT SECRET
31
32 BY THE ORGANIZATION BUT OUTSIDE ESTIMATES HAVE
33
34 RANGED FROM FIVE THOUSAND TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND
35
36 ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE.

37
38 C. CHAPTERS

39
40 AT THE PRESENT TIME IN THE STATE OF
41
42 LOUISIANA THERE ARE THREE CHAPTERS KNOWN TO THE
43
44 NEW ORLEANS DIVISION. THESE CHAPTERS ARE LOCATED
45
46 AT JONESBORO, BOGALUSA AND HOMER, LOUISIANA.

47
48 AS NOTED IN THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE
49
50 APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES DATED JUNE

51
52 END PAGE FOUR
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11 PAGE FIVE

12 THIRTEEN SIXTYFIVE, ADDITIONAL CHAPTERS WERE REPORTEDLY BEING
13
14 ESTABLISHED IN BATON ROUGE, NEW IBERIA AND PLAQUEMINE.

15
16 D. ARMS

17
18 ON FEBRUARY TWENTYTWO SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED]
20 [REDACTED]
21 [REDACTED]

b7C
b7D

22 [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT

23
24 EARNEST THOMAS (DDJ) JONESBORO, LOUISIANA AT A

25
26 MEETING OF THE DDJ IN BOGALUSA HAD STATED THAT

27
28 NEGROES SHOULD BUY SUBSTANTIAL WEAPONS SUCH AS

29
30 THREE ZERO SIX CALIBER RIFLES. THOMAS SUGGESTED

31
32 THAT TWELVE OR SIXTEEN GAUGE SHOT GUNS WOULD ALSO

33
34 BE USEFUL.

35
36 THOMAS STATED THAT HIS GROUP HAD CONTACTS

37
38 IN CHICAGO AND HOUSTON FOR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND

39
40 MENTIONED PURCHASING A FIFTY AND THIRTY CALIBER

41
42 END PAGE FIVE
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16 PAGE SIX

17
18 MACHINE GUN.

19
20 ON MARCH TEN SIXTYFIVE ROYAN BURRIS,
21
22 MEMBER OF THE DDJ AT BOGALUSA, STATED IN AN ARTICLE
23
24 APPEARING IN THE LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT EARNEST
25
26 THOMAS OF JONESBORO, AN OFFICIAL AND FULL-TIME
27
28 ORGANIZER OF THE DEACONS, STATED THAT THE DEACONS
29
30 HAVE MACHINE GUNS AND HAND GRENADES.

31
32 ON MARCH TWENTYFOUR SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]
33
34 [REDACTED] AT JONESBORO,
35
36 LOUISIANA, ADVISED THAT SOME MEMBERS OF THE DDJ
37
38 HAVE FIREARMS FOR SELF-DEFENSE AND FOR PROTECTION
39
40 AGAINST PERSONS POSSIBLY CONNECTED WITH THE KU
41
42 KLUX KLAN.

43
44 [REDACTED] STATED THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ
45
46 DO NOT ACTUALLY ENGAGE IN ARMED PATROLS BUT THAT
47
48 END PAGE SIX

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17
18 THE STORY CONCERNING THESE PATROLS WAS GIVEN OUT
19
20 TO DISCOURAGE KLANSMEN AND PERSONS OF THAT TYPE
21
22 FROM GOING INTO THE NEGRO SECTIONS CAUSING TROUBLE.
23

24 AGENTS OF THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION HAVE
25
26 OBSERVED SIDEARMS, RIFLES AND SHOT GUNS, BUT NO MACHINE-
27
28 GUNS IN THE POSSESSION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF
29
30 THE DDJ IN BOGALUSA AND JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.
31

32 E. SOURCES OF ARMS
33

34 INVESTIGATION BY BOTH THE CHICAGO AND
35
36 HOUSTON DIVISION OF THE FBI HAVE FAILED TO DETERMINE
37
38 ANY SOURCE FROM WHICH THE DDJ'S WERE SECURING
39
40 MACHINE GUNS OR AUTOMATIC WEAPONS.
41

42 THE THREE KNOWN CHAPTERS OF THE DDJ'S ARE LOCATED IN
43
44 RURAL AREAS IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA. IN THESE VARIOUS
45

46 END PAGE SEVEN
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20 PAGE EIGHT

21
22 RURAL AREAS THE CARRYING OF RIFLES AND PISTOLS ARE
23
24 COMMONPLACE BY THE CITIZENRY, BOTH WHITE AND NEGRO.
25
26 FIREARMS SUCH AS RIFLES AND PISTOLS AND AMMUNITION ARE
27
28 READILY AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL HARDWARE, SPORTING GOOD
29
30 STORES, MAIL ORDER HOUSES, AND GUN DEALERS. THE CARRYING
31
32 OF FIREARMS IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA IS PERMISSIBLE
33
34 PROVIDING THESE WEAPONS ARE NOT CONCEALED ON THE
35
36 PERSON.

37
38 BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE
39
40 MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DDJ'S IT IS BELIEVED
41
42 THAT WITHOUT OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAT PURCHASING
43
44 OF WEAPONS ON A LARGE SCALE COULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED
45
46 BY THE DDJ'S.

47
48 II.

b7C
[REDACTED] ALLEGED MEMBER IN

49
50 THE DDJ'S

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52 END PAGE EIGHT
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18 PAGE NINE

19
20 INVESTIGATION TO DATE IN THE BOGALUSA AREA HAS
21
22 NOT ESTABLISHED [REDACTED]'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE DDJ'S.

23
24 IT SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT [REDACTED] IS A STATE
25
26 DEFENDENT INVOLVING THE ASSAULT OF [REDACTED].

b7C

27
28 INTERVIEW HAS BEEN CONDUCTED OF [REDACTED].
29

30 III. JONESBORO CHAPTER OF DDJ'S

31
32 THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FILED MARCH NINE
33
34 SIXTYFIVE WITH THE LOUISIANA SECRETARY OF STATE SHOW
35
36 THE CORPORATE DOMICILE OF DDJ AS JONESBORO, LOUISIANA.

37
38 IV. ALLEGED MONITORING OF THE WALKIE-
39

40 END PAGE NINE
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23 PAGE TEN

24 TALKIES OF THE DDJ BY FBI.

25
26 THE NEW ORLEANS DIVISION HAS EQUIPMENT
27
28 BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA CAPABLE OF MONITORING THE
29
30 WALKIE TALKIES OF THE DDJ, KLAN AND CITIZENS BAND RADIOS,
31
32 HOWEVER, NO MONITORING HAS BEEN DONE OF THE DDJ.

33
34 V. ALLEGED PROTECTION OF THE WIDOW OF
35
36 O'NEAL MOORE

37
38 INVESTIGATION IN THE VARNADO AREA WHERE
39
40 O'NEAL MOORE RESIDED AS WELL INTERVIEWS OF O'NEAL
41
42 MOORE'S WIFE HAS NOT ESTABLISHED THAT ANY PROTECTION
43
44 IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE DDJ'S IN THE VARNADO,
45
46 LOUISIANA AREA. IN ADDITION THERE IS NO KNOWN
47
48 UNIT OF THE DDJ'S LOCATED IN VARNADO, LOUISIANA.
49
50 END PAGE TEN.
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21 PAGE ELEVEN
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23 BASED ON THE FACTS AVAILABLE BY INVESTIGATION
24
25 TO DATE THE DEACONS FOR DEFENSE OF JUSTICE WHICH
26
27 ORIGINATED IN JONESBORO, LOUISIANA THIS YEAR, HAS
28
29 ATTRACTED A CERTAIN ELEMENT OF THE NEGRO RACE BUT
30
31 THE CLAIMS BY NUMEROUS ORGANIZERS THAT THERE ARE
32
33 BETWEEN FIVE TO FIFTEEN THOUSAND APPEARED TO BE
34
35 GROSSLY EXAGGERATED. AS RACIAL DEMONSTRATIONS,
36
37 PARADES AND ACTIVITIES CONTINUE TO INCREASE
38
39 THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, IT CAN BE
40
41 ANTICIPATED THAT THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WILL INCREASE.
42
43 IT CAN READILY BE SEEN FROM INFORMATION DEVELOPED
44
45 THAT THE CHAPTERS ARE GENERALLY FORMED WHENEVER THERE
46
47 IS ANY SORT OF RACIAL ACTIVITY OR DEMONSTRATION IN THE
48
49 PARTICULAR LOCALS, AND WITH THE INCREASE IN PARADES
50
51 AND DEMONSTRATIONS BY THE NEGROES IN VARIOUS CITIES
52
53 END PAGE ELEVEN
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PAGE TWELVE

THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF LOUISIANA THE ORGANIZERS
WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ENDEAVOR TO ESTABLISH CHAPTERS
IN THESE PARTICULAR CITIES. AS INFORMATION
IS DEVELOPED THE BUREAU WILL BE PROMPTLY ADVISED.

WA... NHH

FBI WASH DC

TU AND CLR

cc Phillips

BT 1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 15 1965

TELETYPE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Belmont _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Mr. Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

1159 PM CST URGENT 7-14-65 WCR

SIC DIRECTOR

FROM BIRMINGHAM /157-1446/ 2P

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP (S) OF
DATE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RM. OO NEW ORLEANS.

RE NEW ORLEANS TELEPHONE CALL TO BIRMINGHAM JULY FOURTEENTH
INSTANT.

BIRMINGHAM INDICES REFLECT NO REFERENCES TO CAPTIONED GROUP
OTHER THAN FURNISHED BY NEW ORLEANS.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCED COMMUNICATION BIRMINGHAM
CONDUCTED FOLLOWING INVESTIGATION ON JULY FOURTEENTH INSTANT.

[REDACTED] b1 AND [REDACTED] (c)

[REDACTED] WERE CONTACTED CONCERNING INSTANT MATTER. INFORMANT AND
[REDACTED] ADVISED THEY COULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION CONCERNING

ANY ACTIVITY OF THIS GROUP IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION NOR THE IDENTITY

OF ANY BIRMINGHAM DIVISION MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. INFORMANT AND

[REDACTED] ARE COGNIZANT OF AND FOLLOW ACTIVITIES OF MOST

RACIAL GROUPS IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION. BIRMINGHAM WILL FOLLOW

MATTER AND FURNISH ANY NEW INFORMATION DEVELOPED.

END PAGE ONE

54 AUG 5 1965

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/ghk/1/1/4/1/3/6

REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2

DATE OF REVIEW 7-14-85

REC-60

JUL 29 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE TWO

CONCERNING ARTICLE JULY TWELVE LAST ISSUE OF WALL STREET

JOURNAL, BY FRED L. ZIMMERMAN, JOURNAL WRITER, CAPTIONED "RACE
AND VIOLENCE", BIRMINGHAM NOTES MAJOR PORTION DEALS WITH RACIAL

SITUATION IN LOUISIANA. BIRMINGHAM NOT AWARE OF ACTUAL RACIAL

SITUATION IN STATES OTHER THAN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION. RACIAL

SITUATION IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION APPEARS TO BE CALM WITH VARIOUS

GROUPS, NEGRO AND WHITE, ATTEMPTING TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS TO

RACIAL PROBLEMS THAT WILL BE SATISFACTORY TO ALL CONCERNED.

BIRMINGHAM HAS NO KNOWLEDGE THAT NEGROES IN BIRMINGHAM

DIVISION PLAN TO RESORT TO VIOLENT TACTICS OR FOLLOW AN "EYE FOR AN

EYE" THEORY. BIRMINGHAM IS OF OPINION THAT MOST INDIVIDUALS AND

GROUPS IN BIRMINGHAM DIVISION DESIRE TO AVOID ALL RACIAL VIOLENCE

AND ARE EARNESTLY SEEKING A PEACEFUL ANSWER TO RACE PROBLEMS

RATHER THAN THE FORMING OF "ARMED ORGANIZATIONS" AS MENTIONED

IN ARTICLE.

COPY BEING FORWARDED TO NEW ORLEANS AIRMAIL REGISTERED.

END

QWA JMS

FBI WASH DC

7/12 5 02 PM '68
FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 15 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

FBI WASH DC

FBI JKN MISS

10:57 PM CST URGENT 7-14-65 MJX

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : JACKSON (157-3465)

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RM.

RENOTELEPHONE CALL TO JACKSON JULY FOURTEEN,

SIXTYFIVE CONCERNING ARTICLE IN JULY TWELVE NINETEEN

SIXTYFIVE, ISSUE OF "THE WALL STREET JOURNAL" CONCERNING

CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION.

THE JACKSON DIVISION HAS RECEIVED NO INFORMATION

TO INDICATE THAT THERE IS ANY CHAPTER OR MEMBER OF THE

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE IN MISS. INFORMANTS AND

SOURCES WITHIN CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN JACKSON, MISS.,

CONTACTED ON JULY ELEVEN SIXTYFIVE RELATIVE TO CAPTIONED

ORGANIZATION STATED THEY KNEW OF NO SUCH ORGANIZATION IN

THE STATE OF MISS.

ON JULY FOURTEEN SIXTYFIVE [REDACTED]

ADVISED THAT HE HAD RECENTLY MADE A SPECIFIC CHECK CONCERNING [REDACTED]

END PAGE ONE

4 AUG 5 1965

FBI

cc. Phillips

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gpl/jk

Handwritten signatures and initials:
Burgess
L.S.
J.P.
J.P.

b7C
b7D

REC-60 157-2466-28

9 JUL 29 1965

EX-113

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17 PAGE TWO

18
19 THE POSSIBILITIES OF CAPTIONED ORGANIZATION OPERATING
20
21 IN MISS., AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE. HE STATED
22
23 THAT HE MADE A SPECIFIC EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF THERE MIGHT
24
25 BE ANY SUCH ORGANIZATION IN THE COUNTIES NEIGHBORING
26
27 BOGALUSA, LA., BUT FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS ORGANIZATION
28
29 WAS IN ANY OF THESE COUNTIES.

30
31 CHARLES EVERS ADVISED ON JULY FOURTEEN INSTANT CONCERNING
32
33 THE ABOVE ARTICLE THAT THE WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER ONLY
34
35 RECORDED A PART OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH EVERS. EVERS STATED HE
36
37 HAD REFERRED TO THE NEGROES IN MISSISSIPPI WHO WERE DEFENDING
38
39 THEMSELVES FROM VIOLENCE, THESE INDIVIDUALS EVERS STATED HE
40
41 WAS GLAD THEY WERE AROUND. STATED HE KNEW OF NO CAPTIONED GROUPS
42
43 IN EXISTENCE IN MISSISSIPPI.

44 AIR MAIL COPY TO NEW ORLEANS.

45
46 END

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50 FBI WASH DC

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6 FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 14 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

10 FBI CHARLT

12 006

14 FBI CHARLT

16 PM URGENT 7-14-65 DKR

18 TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

20 FROM: CHARLOTTE (157-882)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP182/H

22 DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTER.

28 RE NEW ORLEANS TELEPHONE CALL TODAY PERTAINING TO

30 ARTICAL, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, MONDAY JULY TWELVE LAST.

32 PAGE ONE, ABOVE ISSUE, WALL STREET JOURNAL, CONTAINS

34 STATEMENT DEACONS HAVE FORMED GROUPS IN SEVERAL TOWNS IN

36 S.C. AND IN TWO TOWNS IN WESTERN N.C.

38 DURHAM MORNING HERALD, DAILY NEWSPAPER, DURHAM, N.C.,

40 IN JULY ONE LAST ISSUE REPORTED ON NATIONAL CONVENTION CORE

42 WHICH TOOK PLACE DURHAM, N.C., JULY ONE THROUGH FIVE LAST.

44 ARTICLE REPORTED THAT JAMES FARMER, NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF

46 CORE, HAD STATED HE WOULD NOT CONDEMN THE DEACONS ORGANIZATION

48 DESCRIBED AS A MOVEMENT WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN ORGANIZED

50 IN THE DEEP SOUTH. DEACONS, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, ARE ARMED

52 VIGILANTE GROUPS SET UP TO PROTECT NEGRO NEIGHBORHOODS AGAINST

54 WHITE MILITANTS AND INADEQUATE LAW ENFORCEMENT.

56 END PAGE ONE

66 AUG 1 1965

9 JUL 29 1965

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11 CE 157-882

12
13 JULY THREE LAST ISSUE D^UERHAM MORNING HEARLD CONTAINS
14
15 ARTICLE SHOWING ERNEST THOMAS OF MISS., A CHARTER MEMBER OF
16
17 DEACONS, APPEARED BEFORE CORE CONVENTION AND BLASTED KKK
18
19 ~~AND~~ REDNECK TECHNIQUES. HE DECLARED PERIOD OF NEGRO NON-
20
21 VIOLENCE IS OVER. THOMAS CHARGED WHITE MEN HAVE GIVEN NEGRO
22
23 NEW LAWS AND PRIVILEGES BUT NEGROES HAVE BEEN BEATEN WHEN
24
25 THEY TRIED TO USE THEM. HE SAID WE MUST HAVE THE DEACONS
26
27 TO LET THE KLAN KNOW THAT NEGROES AS A WHOLE ARE NOT NON-
28
29 VIOLENT. ARTICLE SHOWS THAT CORE DIRECTOR JAMES FARMER
30
31 VOICED HIS SUPPORT OF DEACONS. ALSO, DR. LONNIE X, BLACK
32
33 MUSLIM MINISTER OF WASHINGTON, ALSO SUPPORTED DEACONS.

34
35 NO ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE DURING CORE CONVENTION OR INFORMATION
36
37 RECEIVED AS TO ANY CHAPTERS OF CAPTIONED ORGINIZATION WITH
38
39 CHARLOTTE TERRITORY AND NO INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM INFORMANTS
40
41 OR SOURCES THAT SUCH CHAPTERS OR UNITS EXIST.

42
43 LOGICAL SOURCES AND INFORMANTS BEING CONTACTED IN EFFORT
44
45 TO DETERMINE IF ANY UNITS OF THIS ORGANIZATION DO EXIST
46
47 WITHIN CHARLOTTE DIVISION.

48
49 INFORMATION CONCERNING CORE CONVENTION, INCLUDING FORE-
50
51 GOING INFORMATION RE DEACONS SUBMITTED IN LHM BY CHARLOTTE

52
53 END PAGE TWO
54
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9 PAGE THREE

10 JULY TWELVE LAST CAPTIONED "NATIONAL CONVENTION OF CORE,
11
12 DURHAM, N.C., JULY ONE-FIVE, NINETEENSIXTYFIVE, RACIAL
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14 MATTERS."

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16 COPY TO SAVANNAH AIR MAIL.

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23 CORR PAGE ONE LLNE 5 WORD 5 SHD. BE TOWNS

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25 CORR PAGE TWO LINE 1 WOREXXOXXWORD 5 SHD. BE DURHAM

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FBI

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 14 1965

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

WASH DC

FBI JACKSVLE

5-44 PM EST URGENT 7/14/65 JLC

TO DIRECTOR

FROM JACKSONVILLE /157-NEW/ 1P

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, RACIAL MATTERS.

RECALL FROM ASAC SYLVESTER FROM NEW ORLEANS TODAY.

JACKSONVILLE HAS NO INFO IN INDICES CONCERNING FORMATION

OF ANY OF CAPTIONED GROUPS IN NORTHERN FLORIDA. INFORMANTS

HAVE NOT INDICATED ANY SUCH ACTION BEING TAKEN.

JACKSONVILLE WILL BE ALERT FOR SUCH GROUPS AND WILL

ADVISE THE BUREAU IMMEDIATELY IF ANY SUCH ACTIVITY IS

STARTED.

AIRMAIL COPY TO NEW ORLEANS.

END

WA

BMS

FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gl/jr

157-24663

JUL 29 1965

FBI

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66 AUG 4 1965

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 14 1965

TELETYPE

FBI MOBILE

947 PM CST URGENT

7/14/65

VFP

TO DIRECTOR AND NEW ORLEANS

FROM MOBILE /157-1017/

REACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE. RM.

RE PHONE CALL FROM ASAC SYLVESTER, NEW ORLEANS

TODAY, REFERENCE ARTICLE IN WALL STREET JOURNAL JULY TWLEVE

LAST CAPTIONED " RACE AND VIOLENCE".

MOBILE HAS DEVELOPED NO INFORMATION TO REFLECT THAT
ANY CHAPTER INSTANT ORGANIZATION IN EXISTENCE MOBILE DIVISION.

AGENTS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REMAIN ALERT FOR INFO INDICATING
FORMATION SUCH GROUPS. INFORMANTS AND SOURCES ARE BIENG

LIKEWISE ALERTED AND IF ANY POSITIVE INFO RECEIVED, BUREAU
AND NEW ORLEANS WILL BE PROMPTLY NOTIFIED.

END

WA LRA

FBI WASH DC

NO RJB

FBI NEW ORLS

TU ALL CLEG-BXI H+ COGX

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gpa/jr

REC 25

157-2466 31

9 JUL 29 1965

AUG 4 1965

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

DATE: 8/2/65

FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (157-1074) (RUC)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS
(OO: NEW ORLEANS)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-16-80 BY SP1 gpa/lfrRe Bureau airtel to New Orleans, Etal, dated
7/19/65.

On 7/16/65, [REDACTED] was
contacted by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
concerning investigation on another matter. During the
conversation, [REDACTED] was asked if he was familiar with
captioned group, and he replied that he was. He stated
that captioned group has on occasion in the past worked
with CORE. They are a group of normally local businessmen
who participate in picket lines and protest marches in a
non-violent manner. If violence breaks out, this group
combats violence with violence. They will attack local
white residences just as hate groups and klans will
attack Negro residences. He added that they have most
noticeably been active in Louisiana and that he has been
contacted by a representative of the group who was inquiring
to determine if they were needed in the North Florida area.
[REDACTED] related that he told them they were not needed at
this time in North Florida and to the best of his knowledge,
there are no such groups active in the state of Fla.

On the dates indicated the following persons were
contacted by SA [REDACTED] and advised they had no
information concerning the existence of a group of captioned
organization being in existence in the Florida area:

On 7/23/65, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Tallahassee, Fla.;

On 7/27/65, [REDACTED]
Quincy, Fla.;

On 7/27/65, [REDACTED]
Quincy, Fla.

2 - Bureau
2 - New Orleans
1 - Jacksonville

AUG 12 1965

VLW/jeb
(5)

16 AUG 5 1965

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SUBV. CONTROL
INT. SEC.

JK 157-1074

On the contact, all of the above persons advised that should they obtain any information concerning captioned organization they would immediately notify the FBI.

On 7/26/65, [REDACTED] contacted SA [REDACTED] concerning another matter and during the course of this contact advised that there had been quite a bit of talk recently concerning the organization of a group of the Deacons of Defense and Justice possibly in Jefferson and Madison Counties in North Florida. He stated, however, that he was discouraging the organization of this group adding that he did not feel they were needed and would serve no useful purpose in North Florida at this time. He stated that to the best of his knowledge there is no such group currently operating in the state of Fla., and no formative steps being taken in an attempt to organize such a group.

In view of the fact there appears to be no such group currently active in the North Florida area, this matter is being considered RUC and should any information come to the attention of the Jacksonville Office concerning this group it will immediately be made known to the Bureau and New Orleans.

F B I

Date: 8/4/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3290)

"CHANGED"

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka
Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.
RM

Title changed to reflect correct name of
organization as determined through investigation
Jonesboro, Louisiana...

Enclosed for San Francisco are two photostatic
copies of the Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of
Defense and Justice, Inc.

in format

- 3- Bureau
- 2- Birmingham
- 2- Charlotte
- 2- Jackson
- 2- Jacksonville
- 2- Miami
- 2- San Francisco (Enc.-2)
- 2- Savannah
- 2- New Orleans

EX. - 107

REC-41

MCT-24

157-2466 33

AUG 7 1965

RAH:sms
(19)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP/BA/H

C. C. WICK

3 AUG 20 1965

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M. Per

SUBV. CONTROL

NO 157-3290/sms

For the information of San Francisco [REDACTED] further stated that THOMAS assumed Vice Presidency of the Deacons of Defense and Justice when the application for charter was initiated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THOMAS was to be figurehead only but assumed more power than originally anticipated. THOMAS [REDACTED] began making public statements to the effect that the Deacons of Defense and Justice advocate the use of violence and that they have sources for automatic weapons in Houston, Texas, and Chicago, Illinois. b7c b7D

According to [REDACTED], the Deacons of Defense and Justice of Jonesboro is entirely a Negro organization with branches in Bogalusa and Houma, Louisiana. Their efforts have been directed toward peaceful activity in the area of civic improvement to gain recognition, and they advocate violence as a defensive measure only.

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED]

Name
Race
Sex
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Height
Weight
Eyes
Hair

Negro
Male

S. S. N. [REDACTED]

CALIF
ILL

NO 157-3290/sms

Relatives

Residence

Social Security #
Military Service

Employment

LEADS

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

1) Through [REDACTED] locate [REDACTED] and interview him in an effort to determine in detail the objections of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. and how these objections are to be obtained, with particular emphasis on public use of firearms, potential for violence, any subversive and/or outside influence and whether patrol and guards have been utilized and under what conditions.

2) Develop all information concerning the allegation [REDACTED] that this group has contact in Chicago and Houston for the acquisition of automatic weapons.

3) Determine [REDACTED] activities in the San Francisco area and identify any groups or organizations with which he is affiliated

NO 157-3290/sms

4) Determine [REDACTED] itinerary and approximate date of return to Jonesboro, Louisiana.

5) Attempt to determine through interview [REDACTED] source of income.

It should be noted by San Francisco that the Bureau by airtel dated 2/26/65, has instructed that through interviews of all members of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. that efforts should be made to develop sources relative to the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Inc. and be alert to discourage illegal arming and illegal acts by this group. The identity of [REDACTED] should not be disclosed [REDACTED] should not be discussed.

b7C
b7D

SAC, Los Angeles (157-1184)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8/17/65

Director, FBI (157-2466)

1 - Mr. Trainor
1 - Mr. B. P. Murphy
1 - Mr. Martin

DEACONS OF DEFENSE
AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1 gcl/fv 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2. 4.2 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-17-85

ReLAlet and letterhead memorandum (LHM) 8/5/65, copies to Atlanta, captioned "Cominfil, SNCC"; and Los Angeles airtel and LHM 6/15/65 captioned "Deacons for Defense and Justice," copies to New Orleans. Enclosed for the information of New Orleans is one copy of referenced letter and LHM, 8/5/65.

Reairtel sets forth information that Charles Sims of the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Bogalusa, Louisiana, was in Los Angeles in June, 1965, and appeared on the Louis Lomax television program on 6/13/65. News articles concerning the Deacons appeared in the "Los Angeles Times" of 6/13/65. The Deacons is an all-Negro organization formed for the claimed purpose of self-protection against Klan violence. Its members are encouraged to carry arms, and during recent demonstrations in Bogalusa, Louisiana, Deacons were observed carrying walkie-talkies.

AUG 16 1965

COMM-FBI

1 - Atlanta
1 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enclosures - 2)

JLM:bp
(8) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE.

157-2466-34
19 AUG 16 1965

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

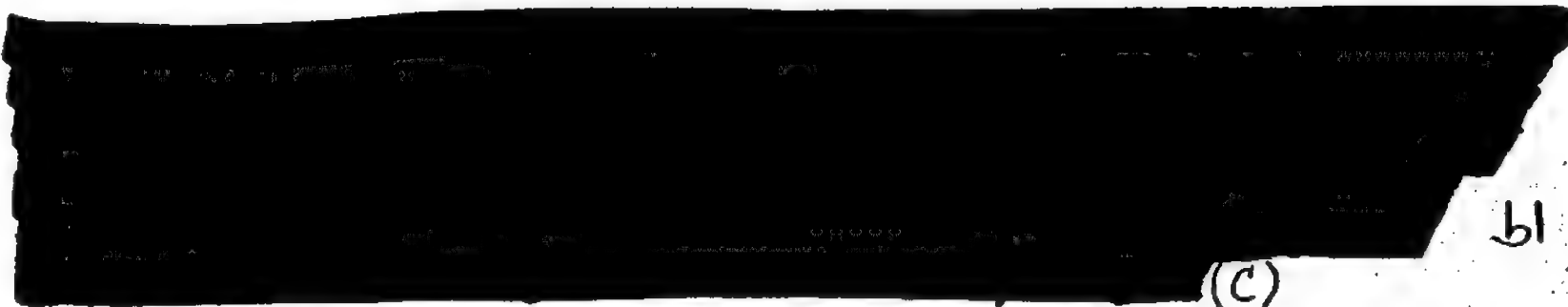
AUG 18 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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9 Letter to SAC, Los Angeles
10 Re: DEACONS OF DEFENSE
11 AND JUSTICE
12 157-2466

CONFIDENTIAL

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(C) b1

CONFIDENTIAL

FBI

Date: 8/9/65

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (157-NEW) (P)
RE: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RACIAL MATTERS

DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

In the August 8, 1965, issue of the San Antonio Light, daily, San Antonio, Texas, newspaper an article appeared stating that MARK KLEIN, a Cornell University student is responsible for the formation of captioned group in Austin, Texas, the purpose of which is to aid the "Deacons for Defense and Justice." KLEIN described the "Deacons" as "an armed Negro self-defense group."

ALBANY

AT ALBANY, NEW YORK

LEADS ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gcl/jr

Also advise San Antonio Division any information of value regarding subject available in files of Albany Division.

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Albany
- 2 - Baltimore
- 3 - San Antonio (157-NEW)
- (1 - 157-310)

JJC / jb
(10)

REC-54

MCT-45

14 AUG 11 1965

Approved *E.C. Wick*

57 AUG 19 1965 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

ICC 800 RB
TNA/SEO

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11 SA 157-NEW

12
13 BALTIMORE

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15 AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

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17 Will advise San Antonio any information available
18 regarding [REDACTED] b7c
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SAC, San Antonio

8/16/65

1 - Mr. Martin

Director, FBI (157-2466)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP/821/fr

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS

ReSai airtel 8/9/65 captioned "The Committee to Aid
the Deacons," with copies to Albany and Baltimore; Buairtel
to New Orleans 7/19/65.

Enclosed for New Orleans is a Xerox copy of referenced
San Antonio airtel.

Enclosed for San Antonio, Baltimore and Albany is a
Xerox copy of referenced Bureau airtel 7/19/65 and a Xerox
copy of a "Wall Street Journal" article 7/12/65 concerning
captioned organization.

San Antonio should promptly submit letterhead
memorandum (LHM), with copies to New Orleans, regarding attempts
to form a committee to aid the Deacons of Defense and Justice
in Austin, Texas, as set forth in reairtel 8/9/65. Local
dissemination should be made to Secret Service and the military
intelligence.

Upon receipt of background data concerning [REDACTED]
and further information regarding attempts to organize the
Deacons in Austin, Texas, San Antonio should consider inter-
view [REDACTED]. A search of Bureau indices will be made upon
receipt of [REDACTED]

Enclosures (2)

EX-100

2 - Albany - Enclosures (2)
2 - Baltimore - Enclosures (2)
2 - New Orleans (157-3290) - Enclosure

REC 27 / 57-2466-36

NOTE:

19 AUG 16 1965

San Antonio has furnished information concerning
attempts, by Mark Klein of Cornell University, to organize
a chapter of the Deacons of Defense and Justice in Austin,
Texas.

The Deacons is an all-Negro organization formed
in Louisiana as protection against Klan violence. Leads are
outstanding at Baltimore and Albany [REDACTED]

JLM: deh
(10)

MAILED 8

AUG 13 1965

COMM-FBI

55 AUG 19 1965

TELETYPE UNIT

RICHARD B. RUSSELL, JR., CHAIRMAN
JOHN STENNIS, MISS.
HARRY CLYDE BYRD, VA.
STUART SYMINGTON, MO.
HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH.
SAM J. ERVIN, JR., N.C.
STROM THURMOND, S.C.
CLAIR ENGLE, CALIF.
HOWARD W. CANNON, NEV.
ROBERT C. BYRD, W. VA.
STEPHEN M. YOUNG, OHIO
DANIEL K. INOUYE, HAWAII
LEVERETT SALTONSTALL, MASS.
MARGARET C. SMITH, MAINE
J. GLENN BEAVER, ARIZ.
BARRY GOLDWATER, ARIZ.
CLIFFORD P. CASE, N.J.

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

HARRY L. WINGATE, JR., CHIEF CLERK

August 11, 1965

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It will be greatly appreciated if you
will give your careful study and attention
to the enclosed and let me have a full report
in duplicate.

Kindly return the enclosure with your
reply.

Sincerely yours,

John Stennis

John Stennis
United States Senator

JS:b
Enclosure
Letter and enclosure of
[REDACTED]
Jackson, Mississippi

b7C

REC 1

157-2466-37

EX 105

5 AUG 12 1965

ENCLOSURE

See

ACK 8-13-65

3 years / 8-13-65

U.S. S.

Original [REDACTED]

CORRESPONDENCE



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

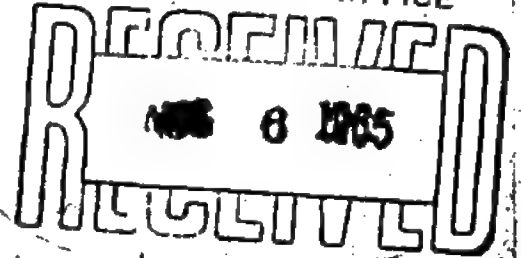
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JACKSON

August 2, 1965

WASHINGTON OFFICE



JOHN STENNIS

Honorable John Stennis
Senator, State of Mississippi
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Stennis:

During the past several weeks in many national publications an organization known as the Deacons for Defense and Justice has received quite a bit of publicity. In both a recent issue of LIFE Magazine and NEWSWEEK, there have been references to the use of automatic weapons, grenades and mortars. I believe that such weapons in the hands of ordinary citizens without a proper licensing of the individual and the weapon is illegal. My question to you is: can you find out from the FBI if they are aware of these statements and if all of this has been checked out to the letter of the law?

You have certainly been getting good publicity in these parts and I think that the whole nation is most appreciative of your fine efforts. The next time you are home we certainly hope that we will have the opportunity of visiting with you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

ENCLOSURE

151-2466-39

August 13, 1965

REC 1 157-2466-39

EX 105

Honorable John Stennis
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gpl/jv

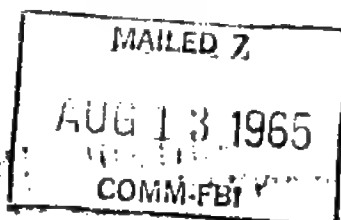
My dear Senator:

I received your letter of August 11th
enclosing a communication from State Representative
[REDACTED] concerning the Deacons for Defense and
Justice.

b7c While I certainly would like to be of
service to [REDACTED], information contained in the
files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in
accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice.
He may be assured, however, that the FBI is ever aware
of its responsibilities in the internal security and civil
rights fields, and whenever a violation of a law within
our jurisdiction occurs, we will make every effort to
continue to discharge our obligations with the highest
degree of thoroughness, dispatch and objectivity.

In response to your request, I am returning
the material you forwarded.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover



Enclosures (2)
1 - New Orleans - Enclosures (2)
1 - Jackson - Enclosures (2)
(see note next page)
DTP:rsp (6)

AUG 24 1965
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

AUG 13 3 57 PM '65
FBI READING ROOM

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
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Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
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Felt _____
Gale _____
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Holmes _____
Gandy _____

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11 Honorable John Stennis
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15 NOTE: Senator Stennis is on the Special Correspondents' List.
16 [REDACTED] is not identifiable in Bufiles. The New Orleans Office is
17 conducting a current investigation regarding Deacons for Defense
18 and Justice to determine its activities and leadership. It is a
19 Negro group formed in Louisiana with one Ernest Thomas as
20 apparently its spokesman. He has advised Negroes that they
21 should arm themselves and form roving patrols which will assist
22 Negroes when being arrested. Fees and dues of the group are
23 used to purchase ammunition, radio equipment and literature.
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F B I

Date: 8/17/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

Via _____

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (157-New)

SUBJECT: THE COMMITTEE TO AID THE DEACONS
RM

Re SA airtel, dated 8/9/65.

Baltimore indices are negative on [REDACTED].

3 - Bureau
2 - San Antonio
1 - Baltimore
MEG:ers
(6)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-17-80 BY SP1 gcl/jk

REC 45

157-2466-39

EX-103

14 AUG 18 1965

Approved: 53 AUG 2 1965 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date: 8/12/65

Transmit the following in

AIRTEL

(Type in plaintext or code)
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, DETROIT (157-new)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP184/1-7-77
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-12/85

APPEARANCE OF ROBERT HICKS,
VICE-PRESIDENT, BOGALUSA (LA.)
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
SPONSORED BY GROUP ON ADVANCED
LEADERSHIP (GOAL), 8/22/65,
DETROIT, MICH.
RACIAL MATTERS

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum. Two copies of the LHM are being furnished the New Orleans Office.

One copy of LHM being furnished G-2 and two copies being furnished U.S. Secret Service, both Detroit, Mich.

This matter will be followed and further letterhead memoranda submitted after appearance of HICKS.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 2 - New Orleans (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 4 - Detroit
- 1 - 157-706 (POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
- 1 - [REDACTED] (c) b1

TPD:sal
(9)

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC SER,
DEPT: ISD, CRD, [REDACTED]

DATE FORW: 8/16/65
HOW FORW: [REDACTED]
BY: [REDACTED]

1cc & cc LHM
Wich 808 RB

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD
Per

Sent

Special Agent in Charge

26 1965

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-442379

DE 157-new

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Detroit PD and the Michigan State Police are aware of the contents in the LHM.

The LHM is being classified "Confidential" inasmuch as information furnished by sources could reasonably result in the identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise effectiveness thereof.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Detroit, Michigan
August 12, 1965

Reply, Please Refer to

Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
Vice-President, Bogalusa (Louisiana)
Deacons for Defense and Justice
Sponsored by Group on Advanced
Leadership (GOAL), August 22, 1965,
Detroit, Michigan

[REDACTED] that Robert (c)
Hicks, Vice-President of the Bogalusa (Louisiana) Deacons
for Defense and Justice, will speak at Detroit, Michigan,
on Sunday, August 22, 1965, at a freedom dinner sponsored
by GOAL. According to this source, the Deacons for Defense
and Justice is a rifle club which was recently organized
in the Bogalusa, Louisiana, area, the membership of which
is composed entirely of Negroes and the purpose of which
is to protect civil rights workers in that area.

[REDACTED] b1 that the purpose of the affair (c)
is to raise funds and to honor Mr. Hicks, the funds raised
allegedly to be utilized by Mr. Hicks and the Bogalusa
Voters League in connection with their activities in
Louisiana.

The GOAL was filed as a non-profit
corporation with the Michigan Corporation
and Securities Commission on April 19,
1962, with Certificate Number 112493.
The purpose or purposes for which the
corporation was formed are as follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

1. To promote the educational, social
and economic interests of the total
community.

2. To purchase, own, hold, rent, lease,
mortgage, sell, convey and otherwise
lawfully acquire, hold and dispose
of real and personal property or any
interest therein, as may be necessary
or convenient to carry into effect
the objects of this corporation.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP1/24/67-12-85
ON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
OF REVIEW 8-12-85

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

ENCLOSURE

15-1-2466 40

REC-20 1965
XEROX

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: Appearance of Robert Hicks,
Sponsored by GOAL, 8/22/65

3. To solicit, sell or give memberships.

4. To solicit and/or receive donations
and gifts ✓

RICHARD BULLOCK HENRY, President, was shown
as the first Resident Agent. The corporation,
at the time of incorporation, owned no real
estate but claimed to have \$1,000.00 in cash.



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nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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REPORTING OFFICE NEW ORLEANS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN NEW ORLEANS	DATE 8/17/65	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/5 - 8/16/65
TITLE OF CASE DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC., aka Deacons for Defense and Justice, Inc.		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY MLW:jas
		CHARACTER OF CASE RM	can:mrp mln

REFERENCES:

New Orleans teletype to Director, 1/6/65, and Bureau airtel to New Orleans, 7/19/65.

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LEADS:

CLASS. & EXT. BY **SP1 gpl/fh 7-17-85**
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW **8-17-85**

NEW ORLEANS DIVISION**AT BOGALUSA, LOUISIANA.**

Will maintain contact with [REDACTED] the Deacons of Defense and Justice of Bogalusa to be aware of the activities of that organization in Washington Parish.

(COVER PAGE)

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE:		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">157-2466</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">AUG 23 1965</div>
1 - Bureau (157-2466) 1 - Birmingham (157-1446) 1 - Charlotte (157-882) 1 - Jackson (157-3465) 1 - Jacksonville (157-1074) 1 - Mobile (157-1017) 1 - Savannah (157-731)		
COPIES CONTINUED COVER PAGE B)		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> REC 45 EX. - 107 </div>
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">CONFIDENTIAL</div>
AGENCY / <i>AG</i> / <i>yearly</i> / <i>any</i> / <i>AA</i> / <i>Bar</i> / <i>1-4</i> / <i>01</i> / <i>AC</i> / <i>I</i> / <i>Sec</i> / <i>Sec</i>		
QUEST RECD		
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NO 157-3290

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- 1 - ICG, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1 - Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 4 - New Orleans (157-3290)

AT HOMER, LOUISIANA

Will maintain contact with [REDACTED] the Deacons of Defense and Justice in order to be aware of activities of that organization in that area of Louisiana.

b7C
b7D

AT JONESBORO, LOUISIANA

Will re-contact [REDACTED] and obtain a copy of the by-laws of the Deacons of Defense and Justice. Will maintain contact with [REDACTED] the Deacons of Defense and Justice in order to be aware of any additional chapters authorized by the Deacons of Defense and Justice in any other area of Louisiana or in any other state.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

b1

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Copies of this report are being furnished to listed offices for information inasmuch as there is a possibility that additional investigation will be requested by these offices.

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15 Copies are being furnished to ICG, Secret Service,
16 and Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana, in
17 view of their interest in this organization.
18

19 It is noted that the date of typing of the FD-302's
20 in this report has been delayed which is due to the fact that
21 rough draft inserts were submitted for incorporation into
22 this report.
23

24 The following interviews with [REDACTED] and
25 [REDACTED] are being set forth on the administrative pages
26 inasmuch as they specifically requested that their information
27 be kept confidential.
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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
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☐ For your information: _____

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Copy to:

- 1 - ICG, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1 - Secret Service, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 1 - Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, New Orleans, Louisiana

Report of:

SA [REDACTED] b7C

Office:

NEW ORLEANS

Date:

August 17, 1965

Field Office File No.:

New Orleans 157-3290

Bureau File No.:

157-2466

Title:

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

Character:

RACIAL MATTERS

Synopsis:

Deacons of Defense and Justice formed at Jonesboro, Louisiana, during the summer of 1964, following incidents involving racial activities which incidents created tension in the area. Organization formed by Negro leaders in Jonesboro for the announced purpose of protecting Negroes and whites from illegal acts and from acts designed to terrorize the Negro community. Organization chartered with main headquarters at Jonesboro, Louisiana. Associate chapters at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, and inquiries received from other groups concerning movement but no action taken to approve additional chapters. [REDACTED] of Deacons of Defense and Justice assert that the organization is a defensive group with no intention to commit or encourage any offensive acts. [REDACTED] of organization denied purchase of firearms for the group and further denied knowledge of any source of contacts for this purpose. [REDACTED] of Deacons of Defense and Justice disclaims any connection with or influence by subversive elements. Interviews with [REDACTED]

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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CLASS. & EXT. BY SP182/fh 7-17-80
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.20 2
DATE OF REVIEW 8-17-85

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15 at Jonesboro, Louisiana, set forth. Identity
16 of some leaders and members of Deacons of
17 Defense and Justice at Bogalusa and Homer,
18 Louisiana, set forth. No information developed
19 to indicate Deacons of Defense and Justice
20 have automatic weapons or hand grenades.
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Miscellaneous	48 - 49

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15 DETAILS:
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17 This investigation was predicated upon receipt of
18 information from [REDACTED]
19 [REDACTED] who advised on January 5, 1965,
20 that Deacons of Defense and Justice had been organized in
21 Jonesboro, Louisiana, and that its purposes were similar to
22 those of the Congress of Racial Equality, but that the
23 organization was more militant than CORE and that it would
24 be more inclined to use violence in dealing with opposition
25 encountered in Civil Rights matters. [REDACTED] stated that
26 the organization was founded to promote Negro Civil Rights.
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Date 8/17/65

1

[REDACTED] furnished
the following information: [REDACTED]

The Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) was formed in the summer of 1964 at Jonesboro, Louisiana by a small group of Negroes during a period of extreme racial tension at Jonesboro, for the purpose of protection of Negro and white citizens from white extremists. He referred specifically to harassment type activities on the part of the Ku Klux Klan who had been driving caravans of cars through the Negro quarter containing hooded occupants and escorted by local law enforcement vehicles. He explained that these acts terrorized the Negro residents to the extent that they felt some type of defensive measures were necessary to protect their homes and families. Accordingly a group of approximately 10 to 15 responsible Negro citizens met and formed the DDJ naming the following officers:

PERCY LEE BRADFORD, President; EARNEST THOMAS, Vice President; CHARLEY LEE WHITE, Financial Secretary; COSETTA JACKSON, Treasurer.

The group sought and obtained a charter through the Office of the Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana which charter was issued in March, 1964. [REDACTED] the purposes of the organization, other than the defense against harassment, are to promote responsible leadership and educate people to the duties and obligations of good citizenship in the community. Other objectives of the DDJ include equal rights for all and elimination of discrimination and violence. [REDACTED] was hopeful that the objectives of the organization could be derived through discussions with city officials and other interested parties. [REDACTED] stated emphatically that the DDJ is a defensive organization with no intentions of instituting violence or offensive action of any type in seeking its objectives. He further stated applicants for membership must be American citizens, age 21 or over and approved by the membership.

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8/3/65

at Jonesboro, Louisiana

File # 157-3290

SA [REDACTED]

and

SA [REDACTED]

/cem

Date dictated 8/11/65

NO 157-3290/cem
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Individuals of poor reputation, troublemakers and the like are not accepted. Group meetings are normally held once a week at various homes or meeting places in the Negro community.

With regard to patrols, [REDACTED] stated no assignments are made to accompany any type of demonstration, however, quite often some of the members of the DDJ are present as spectators at such activities just as any other citizen might be. b7C b7D

[REDACTED] stated currently there are approximately 25 to 35 members of the DDJ who are considered inactive due to no payment of dues and other causes. He stated voting privileges are extended to active members only. The initiation fee is \$1 and the monthly dues are \$2. [REDACTED] furnished the following list of members who are currently active in the Jonesboro, Louisiana chapter:

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated the Jonesboro group maintains no official office [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated the organization has no application form for use by prospective members.

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NO 157-3290/cem

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██████████ advised that similar DDJ groups have been formed in Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana which were granted certificates by the parent Jonesboro organization. The certificates grant authority for those groups to use the name DDJ and operate under the provisions of the charter granted the Jonesboro group. ██████████ stated the parent group furnishes advice and assistance concerning policy to those chapters. He stated no other groups have been authorized to use the name DDJ in Louisiana or any other state although he has received inquiries concerning the formation of similar groups at Monroe, Ferriday and New Orleans, Louisiana. He stated careful consideration is given to granting certificates to other groups in order to insure that the policies and objectives of the parent group are adhered to. ██████████ stated that CHARLIE SIMMS is the President of the Bogalusa Chapter and that CHARLES DODD is President of the Homer, Louisiana Chapter of the DDJ. He stated he did not know the current membership of the Bogalusa and Homer groups.

MEMBER OF SUBJECT ORGANIZATION

██████████ was questioned concerning statements made by EARNEST THOMAS, Vice President of the Jonesboro DDJ and others, which have appeared in national periodicals, concerning the organization. ██████████ stated much of the information attributed to these people is false and exaggerated particularly in reference to alleged secrecy of the organization, purchase of firearms in Chicago and Houston, the number of chapters which have been created and other statements indicating the DDJ has offensive motives. He stated he had not seen any of the publications referring to the DDJ or read any of the statements attributed to THOMAS and other DDJ leaders.

██████████ stated he is very concerned about the effects that irresponsible publicity might have on DDJ and he plans to make every effort to correct the situation through talks with those responsible for such publicity.

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[REDACTED] stated he believes the statements made recently by THOMAS were made to exploit the DDJ for his own personal publicity and financial gain. He stated THOMAS is presently in California, however, he is not representing the DDJ and his purpose there is unknown [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated the Jonesboro DDJ owns eight walkie-talkie radio units which are presently distributed among the membership which are to be used in the event of an emergency which would require the group to assemble on short notice. He stated the chapter owns no other technical equipment or arms.

[REDACTED] stated there are no persons, to his knowledge, in the DDJ who are sympathetic with or influenced by Black Nationalist or any other subversive group.

[REDACTED] made available a blank identification card which is carried by all DDJ members upon acceptance into the organization. It may be noted that an official card which is issued to a particular member also bears the imprint of a seal which is not affixed to the card until it is issued.

[REDACTED] stated by laws for the DDJ are presently under preparation and it is hoped that within a week same will be submitted to the membership of the organization for approval after which a copy will be made available to the FBI.

He stated the DDJ chapter at Bogalusa and Homer, Louisiana, each paid a \$100 entrance fee to join the organization and they are supposed to pay a sum equal to ten percent of their collected monthly dues to the parent organization to defray expense of supplies, etc. which are provided by the Jonesboro chapter.

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[REDACTED] stated when the organization was first begun, group leaders were appointed for the purpose of rallying membership in the event of a racial incident. The [REDACTED] stated this practice has been abandoned and the organization no longer has group leaders or similar functionaries.

It was tactfully pointed out to [REDACTED] that he should exert his influence to discourage any arming or other illegal acts on the part of DDJ members. [REDACTED]

Following is a description [REDACTED]

Race
Date of birth
Place of birth
Height
Weight
Build
Complexion
Social Security

Negro

[REDACTED]

- 8 -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Date June 16, 1965

1

[REDACTED]

Corporations Division, Secretary of State, State of Louisiana, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, made available a true and correct copy of the charter of Decons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated.

b7C
b7D~~CONFIDENTIAL~~On 6/11/65 at Baton Rouge, Louisiana File # NO 157-3290by SA [REDACTED] dcs 6/11/65 Date dictated

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
State of Louisiana
UNION JUSTICE AND CONFIDENCE

WAIDE O. MARTIN, JR.

I, the undersigned Secretary of State, of the State of Louisiana

DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the annexed and following is a True and Correct copy of the Charter of

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.,

A Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro,

As shown by comparison with document filed and recorded in this Office on March 9, 1965.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of my Office to be affixed at the City of Baton Rouge on, June 11, 1965.

CONFIDENTIAL

Waide O. Martin, Jr.
Secretary of State

CONFIDENTIAL

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OF

STATE OF LOUISIANA

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INC.

PARISH OF OURCHITA

BE IT KNOWN, That on this the 5th day of the Month of
March, in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-
Five:

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public, in and for this Parish and
State, personally came and appeared the several parties of full age
of majority whose signatures are subscribed, who declared in the
presence of the undersigned competent witnesses, that availing
themselves of the provisions of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950,
Sections 12:101 - 12:155, they do hereby organize a nonprofit
corporation as defined in Revised Statute 12:101 (8) under and in
accordance with these articles of incorporation.

ARTICLE I. "NAME"

The name of this corporation is "Deacons of Defense and
Justice, Inc."

ARTICLE II. "PURPOSES"

This corporation is organized for the following purposes
and to carry on the following purposes: To instruct, train, teach
and educate Citizens of the United States and especially minority
groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of
government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train
and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and
laws of the United State and the State of Louisiana, as well as the

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1 duties of the citizen to the community and the obligation and duties
2 of the community to the citizen: To further instruct, teach, train
3 and educate said persons in the value of economic security and in
4 the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons
5 a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corpor-
6 ation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense
7 of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said
8 people and will defend said rights by any and all honorable and
9 legal means to the end that justice be obtained. This corpor-
10 ation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place
11 in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law.

12
13 ARTICLE III. "DURATION"

14 This corporation shall enjoy corporate existence for a
15 period of ninety-nine (99) years from date hereof.

16
17 ARTICLE IV. "REGISTERED OFFICE"

18 The location and post office address of its registered
19 office shall be: Amos Service Station, (rear), Beach Spring Road,
20 Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

21
22 ARTICLE V. "REGISTERED AGENTS"

23 The full names and post office addresses of its registered
24 agents are:

- 25 1. Earnest Thomas, P. O. Box 472, Jonesboro, Louisiana.
26 2. Elmo Jacobs, P. O. Box 124, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

27
28 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

29 ARTICLE VI. "ORGANIZATION"

30 This corporation shall be organized without capital stock
31 and shall have no dues or fees of membership. The
32

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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12 membership and persons located in the United States
4 signed incorporators and all persons hereinafter who apply for
5 membership and satisfactory show that they are dedicated to the
6 proposition of protecting through any and all legal means those
7 rights granted by appropriate laws to all citizens of the United
8 States of America and particularly members of minority groups and
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